

Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement Ward 7 Meeting Summary

Overview

On Saturday, November 16, the Office of Planning (OP) hosted its fourth of eight community meetings planned for the fall of 2019, coordinated in partnership with LINK Strategic Partners (LINK). The purpose of this series of meetings is to present an overview of the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update, including the major themes and any area elements specific to the meeting location. The meetings also intend to share an overview of the community engagement process to date and close the loop on feedback collected from District stakeholders thus far. The central question posed to attendees during the discussion period following an overview presentation is, “What would you like OP to share with your Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC)?”

Location and Attendance

The meeting took place at the offices of the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES), located on Minnesota Avenue, NE within Ward 7. The event was held in one of DOES’ large meeting rooms, and the space was set up with central theater-style seating surrounded by five Gallery Walk stations. Representatives from the DC Census and the Department of Housing and Community Development were also tabling on site. The meeting sign-in sheet registered 47 attendees. Of those 47, three identified as residents of ANC 7C, one identified as a resident of ANC 7D, one identified as a resident of ANC 7E, and one identified as a resident of Ward 6. The other registered attendees did not identify their ANC or Ward of residence.

Run of Show

ANC 7D Chairperson Sherice Muhammad and ANC 7E Chairperson Delia Houseal provided greetings to attendees, demonstrating a depth of understanding of the Comprehensive Plan and a commitment to facilitate feedback from constituents. LINK President Michael Akin acknowledged representatives of the Executive Office of the Mayor, staff from DC Councilmembers’ offices, and additional ANC Commissioners in attendance. OP Director Andrew Trueblood provided welcome remarks and introduced OP Deputy Director Anita Cozart, who presented a thorough update on the Comprehensive Plan. Akin facilitated a 10-minute question and answer (Q&A) session and directed attendees to join OP and LINK staff for discussion at the Gallery Walk stations.

Major Themes and Key Takeaways from Feedback

- Attendees expressed a strong preference for measures that would increase livability across Ward 7, including those that would bring additional retail shops, grocery stores, and sit-down restaurants.



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- Several attendees voiced their interest in increased density within neighborhoods of Ward 7, specifically around transit hubs, as an anti-displacement measure.
- Many attendees had questions about the public review period and wanted clarity on how they could best provide feedback in the coming months.
- A number of attendees had questions about transportation and the Comprehensive Plan's efforts to increase transit connections, bike access, safety, and walkability. Attendees also expressed an interest in additional multi-modal options for getting around neighborhoods in Ward 7.

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